WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A user interface of a keypad entry system for a portable electronic device, the user interface comprising at least ten keys arranged in an ordered array, each key being associated with a phonetic consonant and a phonetic vowel.

2.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein each key is associated with one of the following numeric digits: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0.

3.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein each key is associated with one of the following phonetic vowels: A, YA, EO, YEO, O, YO, U, YU, EU and I.

4.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein each key is associated with a non-aspiration consonant.

5.   The user interface of claim 4, wherein each key is associated with one of the following non-aspiration consonants: KIYEOK, NIEUN, TIKEUT, RIEUL, MIEUM, PIEUP, SIOS, IEUNG, CIEUC and HIEUH.

6.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein four keys of the keypad have at least two phonetic consonants.

7.   The user interface of claim 6, wherein each of the four keys is associated with a non-aspiration consonant and an aspiration consonant, the non-aspiration and aspiration consonants being grouped based on similarity in pronunciation.

8.   The user interface of claim 7, wherein:

each key is associated with one of the following non-aspiration consonants: KIYEOK, NIEUN, TIKEUT, RIEUL, MIEUM, PIEUP, SIOS, IEUNG, CIEUC and HIEUH; and

each of the four keys is associated with one of the following aspiration consonants: KHIEUKH, THIEUTH, PHIEUPH and CHIEUCH.

9.   The user interface of claim 8, wherein:

a first key of the four keys is associated with the KIYEOK consonant and the KHIEUKH consonant;

a second key of the four keys is associated with the TIKEUT consonant and the THIEUTH consonant;

a third key of the four keys is associated with the PIEUP consonant and the PHIEUPH consonant; and

a fourth key of the four keys is associated with the CIEUC consonant and the CHIEUCH consonant;

10.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the phonetic consonants and vowels are Korean Jamos symbols used to generate Korean Hangul characters.

11.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the at least ten keys includes a double consonant on the same key as its respective single consonant.

12.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the at least ten keys includes a double vowel on the same key as its respective single vowel.

13.   A user interface of a keypad entry system for Korean text entry, the user interface comprising:

a first key associated with the KIYEOK consonant and the KHIEUKH consonant;

a second key associated with the TIKEUT consonant and the THIEUTH consonant;

a third key associated with the PIEUP consonant and the PHIEUPH consonant; and

a fourth key associated with the CIEUC consonant and the CHIEUCH consonant.

14.   The user interface of claim 13, further comprising six keys individually associated with each of the following phonetic consonants, respectively: NIEUN, RIEUL, MIEUM, SIOS, IEUNG and HIEUH.

15.   The user interface of claim 13, further comprising fifth, sixth and seventh keys individually associated with three phonetic primitives of the sky-people-land decomposition, respectively.

16. A portable communication device comprising:

a plurality of keys arranged in an ordered array, each key being associated with a phonetic consonant and a phonetic vowel;

a controller coupled to the plurality of keys, the controller being capable of detecting a first selection of the plurality of keys and associating the first selection to a particular phonetic consonant of the selected key, the controller also being capable of detecting a second selection of the plurality of keys and associating the second selection to a particular phonetic vowel, the second selection being subsequent to the first selection; and

a display coupled to the controller, the display being capable of displaying the particular phonetic consonant and the particular phonetic vowel.